



March 9, 2023

Representative Ginny Klevorn, Chair
State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee
Room 10 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Klevorn,

On behalf of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, I write to express my support for HF782. Social security alone does not provide enough financial stability for retirees. According to the National Institute on Retirement Security, the typical working-age household has only \$2,500 in retirement assets, and near-retirement households have just \$14,500 in savings. The nation faces a vast retirement savings deficit, estimated to be as much as \$6.8 trillion, or about \$57,000 per household. Nearly half, 57 million, of American workers do not have an employer-sponsored retirement plan. Communities of color face an even greater potential hardship. In Minnesota, 32% percent of workers lack access to retirement savings options on the job, with workers of color being least likely to be covered by an employer-sponsored plan.

Secure Choice accounts would make it easier for workers to grow additional savings needed for a secure and independent future. These accounts would benefit both employees and employers, giving employees the option to enroll and take their accounts with them when they switch jobs. This creates greater job flexibility and freedom for workers without the fear of losing out on already accrued earnings. Secure Choice accounts will give employees a simple way to plan and prepare for retirement, meaning fewer will need to rely on government safety nets in the future, saving taxpayer dollars.

Employers can provide better employment benefits to attract and retain talent in the competitive workplace by giving an accessible benefit that can be deducted from a regular paycheck, with no ongoing costs or risks to the employer. Small businesses such as restaurants, retailers, and construction companies are always looking for better benefits they can use to attract talent. Secure Choice accounts would allow these small businesses the opportunity to provide benefits they would otherwise not be able to afford.

The Minneapolis Regional Chamber recognizes the new opportunities these bills would provide to small and large businesses and workers in the region and across the state. We hope you will recognize the significant benefits Secure Choice accounts would have on employers and employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Weinhagen', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Weinhagen
President & CEO
Minneapolis Regional Chamber